

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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SAM-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-07

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P R 121715Z JUL 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0296

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 4 MBFR VIENNA 0159

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG MEETING OF JULY 11, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS JULY 11 MEETING, THE AHG, CHAIRED BY US REP, HEARD REPORTS OF WESTERN BILATERALS WITH ROMANIAN REP AND POLISH REP, DISCUSSED RESULTS OF JULY 10 INFORMAL SESSION AND REVIEWED DRAFT OUTLINE OF JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT; THERE WERE A FEW INITIAL COMMENTS REGARDING GDR REP OESER'S STATEMENT AT THE JULY 11 PLENARY SESSION. THE GROUP RECORDED AGREEMENT WITH THE EAST THAT THE FINAL INFORMAL AND PLENARY MEETING OF THIS SESSION WILL BE HELD

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RESPECTIVELY ON JULY 15 AND JULY 17, AND THAT

THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE AUTUMN ROUND WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24. THE GROUP DISCUSSED SOVIET REP KHLESTOV'S NEGATIVE REACTION IN THE JULY 10 INFORMAL TO THE WESTERN SUMMARY OF EACH SIDE'S INFORMAL POSITIONS, NOTING KHLESTOV'S COMMENTS THAT SUCH INFORMAL STATEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED TO BE BINDING. AHG REPS BELIEVED THAT EASTERN REPS HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER AND, THEREFORE, HAD NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO GIVE AUTHORITATIVE REACTIONS. DISCUSSION OF THE DRAFT PLENARY OUTLINE CENTERED ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE AND THUS FORMALIZE THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER. THE BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS REPS ARGUED THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD EXTRACT MAXIMUM BARGAINING VALUE FROM THE OFFER BY FORMALIZING IT IN THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION, WHILE THE UK AND ITALIAN REPS ARGUED AGAINST INCLUSION, SAYING IT WAS NOT DESIRABLE TO REGISTER THIS INFORMAL OFFER AS YET IN VIEW OF THE LACK OF EASTERN MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. AHG ALSO CONSIDERED WHETHER THE JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE WESTERN OFFER TO DISCUSS DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. GROUP DEFERRED A FINAL DECISION ON BOTH OF THESE QUESTIONS. NEXT AHG MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12. END SUMMARY.

2. GREEK REP (DOUNTAS) REPORTED ON A JULY 11 LUNCHEON MEETING WITH ROMANIAN REP (ANINIOU) , WHO SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT THE EAST WILL NEVER ACCEPT THE ALLIED CONCEPT OF DISPARITIES AND WILL INSIST, INSTEAD, ON EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS. ANINIOU COMPLAINED ABOUT THE DIMINISHING FREQUENCY OF WESTERN BILATERAL BRIEFINGS TO HIM REGARDING INFORMAL SESSIONS. HE ALSO COMPLAINED THAT THE CONTENT OF THE BRIEFINGS WAS BECOMING MORE VAGUE. GREEK REP ASKED WHETHER EASTERN BRIEFINGS TO ROMANIANS ON INFORMALS HAD IMPROVED. ROMANIAN REP REPLIED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE, BUT ADDED THAT ROMANIANS STILL WANTED BRIEFINGS FROM BOTH SIDES. UK REP (ROSE) FELT THAT THE ROMANIANS RECEIVED ADEQUATE BRIEFINGS FROM THE EAST AND THAT, THEREFORE, ALLIED REPS SHOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ONLY FACTUAL REPORTS AND NOT GIVE ASSESSMENTS. GROUP AGREED WITH UK REP AND DECIDED TO BRIEF THE ROMANIANS ON THE LAST TWO INFORMAL

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MEETINGS AT THE END OF THE SESSION.

3. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENSSEN) REPORTED A BILATERAL WITH POLISH REP (STRULAK) , DURING WHICH AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO HOLD THE FINAL INFORMAL AND PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE CURRENT SESSION RESPECTIVELY ON MONDAY, JULY 15 AND WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, AND TO HOLD THE FIRST PLENARY OF THE NEXT SESSION ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24.

IT WOULD BE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED THAT THE DELEGATIONS
WOULD MEET DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16 IN ORDER
TO PREPARE FOR THE PLENARY OF SEPTEMBER 24.

4. CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) REPORTED THAT, AFTER THE
JULY 11 PLENARY, SOVIET DEPREP SMIRNOVSKY HAD TOLD HIM THAT
THE JULY 10 INFORMAL HAD BEEN A "PROGRESSIVE" MEETING.
UK REP REPORTED THAT SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) HAD
COMMENTED TO HIM DURING THE JULY 11 PLENARY THAT THE
JULY 10 INFORMAL HAD BEEN "A VERY FUNNY SESSION."
WHEN UK REP ASKED WHAT THIS REMARK MEANT, SOVIET
REP SAID EASTERN REPS THOUGHT WESTERN REPS WERE
TRYING TO BE FUNNY IN SUMMARIZING THE POSITIONS OF
THE TWO SIDES AS THEY DID. UK REP INTERJECTED THAT
WESTERN REPS HAD MADE A SERIOUS PROPOSAL. SOVIET
REP CONSIDERED THIS AN ODD EXCHANGE AND SAID HE WAS
NOT ENCOURAGED THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE WITH THIS
KIND OF REACTION. UK REP AND FRG REP (BEHREND'S) NOTED KHLESTOV'S
HABIT OF BELITTling WESTERN PROPOSALS WHEN FIRST MADE, BUT FELT
KHLESTOV'S REACTION HAD BEEN UNCALLED FOR.

DISCUSSION OF JULY 10 INFORMAL

5. UK REP BEGAN THE DISCUSSION BY NOTING THAT KHLESTOV'S
OPENING STATEMENT HAD REPEATED STANDARD EASTERN ARGUMENTS
ON THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM
THE OUTSET. AS KHLESTOV HAD FOREWARNED AMBASSADOR RESOR,

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0297

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 4 MBFR VIENNA 0159

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EASTERN REPS HAD NOTHING NEW TO SAY.
KHLESTOV HAD STAYED WITH THE ORTHODOX LINE AND HAD
OMITTED MENTIONING ANY OF THE IDEAS OR REFINEMENTS
WHICH THE EAST HAD RAISED DURING THE LAST FEW
INFORMAL MEETINGS. THE ONLY NEW POINT RAISED WAS
KHLESTOV'S REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF FURTHER
REDUCTION STEPS TO BE TAKEN AFTER THE EAST'S
PROPOSED PROGRAM HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT; UK REP
ASSUMED THIS RELATED TO EASTERN FLANK STATES'
COMMENTS ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS ON FORCE REDUCTIONS IN
THE BALKANS.

6. UK REP CALLED ATTENTION TO THE LONG CAUCUS TAKEN
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BY THE EASTERN REPS AFTER THE NETHERLANDS REP HAD
PRESENTED THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER. ROSE
INTERPRETED THE EASTERN REACTION TO THE PRESENTATION
AS A HOLDING OPERATION SINCE THE EAST HAD BEEN TAKEN
BY SURPRISE, PARTICULARLY BY THE "ALL" OFFER, AND
DID NOT HAVE A READY RESPONSE. HE ALSO INTERPRETED
KHLESTOV'S INITIAL RESPONSE AS AN ATTEMPT TO AVOID
THE SUGGESTION THAT THE WEST'S SUMMARY OF POINTS INVOLVED
ANY COMMITMENTS ON THE PART OF THE EAST.

7. UK REP OBSERVED THAT KHLESTOV SEEMED TO HAVE MIS-
INTERPRETED THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER. BUT PERHAPS
THIS HAD BEEN DELIBERATE, SINCE IN REFERRING TO THE
FORMULA, KHLESTOV QUOTED FROM HIS OWN NOTES, WHICH
WERE SOMEWHAT IN ERROR, RATHER THAN THE TEXT
PROVIDED BY WESTERN REPS. ROSE NOTED THAT US REP
HAD CORRECTED EASTERN MISINTERPRETATIONS REGARDING
THE POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF US FORCES IN PHASE TWO
AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NEW "ALL PARTICIPANTS"
OFFER AND THE PREVIOUS "FOCUS" FORMULA. UK REP
CONCLUDED WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THE MEETING HAD BEEN

"NOT UNSATISFACTORY" AND THAT THE ALLIES HAD NOT MET WITH A REBUFF OR A NEGATIVE RESPONSE.

8. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) CONSIDERED IT OBVIOUS THAT THE EASTERN REPS HAD BEEN CAUGHT OFF GUARD AND HAD REACTED DEFENSIVELY. AS THE AHG HAD EXPECTED, EASTERN REPS HAD PLAYED DOWN THE WESTERN OFFER, BUT QUARLES ASSUMED THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE THOROUGH EASTERN QUESTIONING AT THE NEXT INFORMAL. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OFFER WILL SINK IN OVER THE RECESS WHEN ALL WESTERN PROPOSALS WILL RECEIVE GREATER ATTENTION. QUARLES NOTED THAT THE EAST SEEMED TO ACCEPT THAT LUXEMBOURG IS AN EXCEPTION TO THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER.

9. US DEPREP SAID THE GROUP SHOULD NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT EASTERN ATTACKS ON THE WESTERN SUMMARY OF POSITIONS. THE EASTERN RESPONSE WAS SIMPLY AN ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THEIR PRESENT INABILITY TO COMMENT ON THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER. CANADIAN REP CALLED ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT KHLESTOV HAD
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ASKED FIVE DIFFERENT TIMES WHETHER THE OFFER MEANT THAT THE US WOULD NOT REDUCE IN PHASE II; GRANDE ASKED US REP IF THERE WAS ANY PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS. US REP SAID HE THOUGHT THIS WAS SIMPLY ANOTHER INDICATION OF EASTERN LACK OF PREPAREDNESS. HOWEVER, KHLESTOV MAY WELL HAVE BEEN PROBING REGARDING US PLANS FOR PHASE TWO.

10. ITALIAN REP (CAGIATI) GAVE HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE EASTERN REPS WERE MORE SURPRISED BY THE ALLIED SUMMARY OF EAST-WEST POSITIONS THAN BY THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER. CAGIATI THOUGHT THE EAST WAS CONCERNED THAT THE ALLIES TOOK EASTERN COMMENTS ON THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SO SERIOUSLY, SINCE THE EAST DID NOT WANT TO BE STRICTLY BOUND BY THEIR STATEMENTS IN THIS FORUM. HE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE EAST FELT THE "ALL" OFFER WAS NOT THAT IMPORTANT SINCE IT WAS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE PREVIOUS "FOCUS" FORMULA. CAGIATI THEREFORE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE "ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER SHOULD BE MENTIONED IN THE FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT. BELGIAN REP SAID HE ALSO GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT KHLESTOV DID NOT WANT TO FORMALIZE THE INFORMAL STATEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, ADRIAENSSEN RECALLED A CONVERSATION WITH KHLESTOV, WHO HAD COMPLAINED ABOUT THE ALLIED TECHNIQUE OF READING FROM PREPARED PAPERS DURING INFORMAL SESSIONS, CLAIMING THAT THIS TIES THE PARTICIPANTS DOWN TOO MUCH. BELGIAN REP STRONGLY SUPPORTED INCLUSION OF THE "ALL" OFFER

IN THE FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT, AS THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO DEMONSTRATE THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE PROPOSAL. CANADIAN REP AGREED THAT THE "ALL" OFFER SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT.

DRAFT OUTLINE FOR JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT

12. CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING GROUP, BELGIAN DEP REP WILLOT, DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE AHG TO TWO ISSUES IN THE DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE JULY 17 ALLIED PLENARY STATEMENT, I.E. WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE A"ALL PARTICIPANTS" OFFER AND THE OFFER TO DISCUSS THE DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES. WILLOT REPORTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE
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MEMBERS OF THE DRAFTING GROUP FAVORED INCLUSION OF THE "ALL" OFFER AND INCLUSION OF A HINT (BUT NO ELABORATION) REGARDING THE OFFER TO DISCUSS THE DEFINITION OF GROUND FORCES.

13. NETHERLANDS REP DEFINED THE PROBLEM AS BEING HOW MUCH OF WHAT HAS BEEN SAID INFORMALLY SHOULD BE INTRODUCED IN THE PLENARY SESSIONS. QUARLES CONTENDED THAT THE ROLE OF PLENARIES IS TO FORMALIZE SOMEWHAT THE RESULTS OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. AS THE ALLIES ATTACH IMPORTANCE TO WESTERN MOVES MADE IN INFORMAL SESSIONS, THESE PROPOSALS MUST RECEIVE A CERTAIN FORMALIZATION; THIS WOULD

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0298
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INFO USMISSION NATO
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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

ENSURE THAT THE MESSAGE GETS TO EASTERN CAPITALS
CORRECTLY. QUARLES OBSERVED THAT THE AHG HAD MORE
OR LESS ADOPTED THE PRACTICE OF INTRODUCING IN
PLENARIES POINTS WHICH HAD FIRST BEEN INTRODUCED IN
INFORMAL SESSIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE "NO-INCREASE"
FORMULA. NETHERLANDS REP POINTED OUT THAT IF THE
FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT OMITTED THE "ALL" OFFER, THE
EAST WILL CONCLUDE THAT IT IS NOT A SERIOUS OFFER
AND THAT ALLIES ARE NOT GOING TO PURSUE IT. HE
SAID THAT, WHILE THE JULY 10 INFORMAL DISCUSSION
INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS MAY NOT LIKE FORMALIZING
INFORMAL STATEMENTS IN THIS MANNER, THIS EASTERN REACTION
PROVES THE STRENGTH AND IMPORTANCE OF DOING SO. ALLIES
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SHOULD NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY MIGHT BACK
DOWN FROM THE "ALL" OFFER. QUARLES CONCLUDED THAT THE PLENARY
STATEMENT MUST MAKE SOME REFERENCE TO THE "ALL" OFFER,
SINCE ALLIED GOVERNMENTS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ITS NOT
BEING PUT FORWARD IN THE OFFICIAL FORUM OF THE MBFR
NEGOTIATIONS.

14. UK REP STRONGLY OPPOSED INCLUSION OF REFERENCE TO THE "ALL"
OFFER IN THE PLENARY STATEMENT. HE ARGUED THAT THERE
COULD BE NO DOUBT THAT THE ALLIED MESSAGE HAS BEEN ACCURATELY
REPORTED TO EASTERN CAPITALS SINCE WESTERN REPS HAD
PROVIDED EASTERN REPS WITH A WRITTEN TEXT DURING
THE JULY 10 INFORMAL. FURTHER, UK REP STATED THAT
THE "ALL" FORMULA IS DIFFERENT IN KIND AND PURPOSE
FROM OTHER ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE WEST. THIS
FORMULA REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIVE MOVE FROM THE
WEST'S INITIAL POSITION AND WAS INTENDED AS A MAJOR

FINAL EFFORT TO GET THE EAST TO ACCEPT THE PHASING CONCEPT. IF THE "ALL" OFFER IS PUT ON FORMAL RECORD, EVEN THOUGH HEAVILY QUALIFIED, IT WILL NO LONGER BE RETRACTABLE. ROSE SAID THE ALLIES DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE OFFER WILL BE WITHDRAWN, BUT ASSERTED THAT USING THE OFFER IN A PLENARY NOW WITHOUT ANY RECIPROCAL CONCESSION WOULD LEAVE ALLIES WITHOUT BARGAINING LEVERAGE.

15. 15. UK REP ALSO EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT USING THE "ALL" OFFER IN NEXT WEEK'S PLENARY WOULD RISK ELICITING A FORMAL NEGATIVE EASTERN RESPONSE. SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF WESTERN WILLINGNESS TO MOVE TO THE ALLIED POSITION, ROSE SAW NO REASON TO PROMULGATE THE "ALL" OFFER IN A PLENARY STATEMENT. NOT A SINGLE POINT OF THE EASTERN INFORMAL POSITION HAD BEEN RAISED IN PLENARY SESSION. UK REP ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, IF THE PLENARY STATEMENT EXCLUDED THE "ALL" OFFER, THE EAST MIGHT NOT THINK THAT IT WAS SERIOUS. BUT ROSE DID NOT WHOLLY ACCEPT THIS ARGUMENT. IF THE ALLIES TAKE THE VIEW THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE THAT THE OTHER SIDE TAKES WESTERN STATEMENTS SERIOUSLY IS TO MAKE THEM IN PLENARIES, THIS WOULD DOWNGRADE THE VALUE OF THE INFORMAL SESSIONS.

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16. AGREEING WITH THE UK REP, CAGIATI SAID THE ALLIES SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT THE LINKAGE ASSURANCES WERE CONCESSIONS ON THE WESTERN PART TO GET EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALLIED PHASED APPROACH. IF THESE ALLIED OFFERS ARE TO BE USED FOR BARGAINING PURPOSES, THE WEST SHOULD NOT FORMALIZE THEN, THUS MAKING IT DIFFICULT TO TAKE THEM BACK IF THERE IS NO RESPONSE FROM EAST. CAGIATI THEREFORE THOUGHT THE ALLIES SHOULD WAIT FOR AN EASTERN REACTION BEFORE ADVANCING THE "ALL" OFFER IN A PLENARY STATEMENT. BELGIAN REP ASSERTED THAT THE LAST PLENARY STATEMENT SHOULD SUMMARIZE THE COMPLETE WESTERN POSITION, SO THE EAST CAN STUDY THE ALLIED POSITION DURING THE SUMMER RECESS. WHILE IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO GET EASTERN REACTION DURING THIS SESSION, THE ALLIES NEED TO EXTRACT MAXIMUM BARGAINING VALUE FROM THE "ALL" OFFER. IF THE ALLIES NEGLECTED TO EXPLOIT THIS INFORMAL OFFER IN THE FINAL PLENARY SESSION, IT WOULD BE REDUCED IN VALUE. BY INCLUDING THE OFFER IN THE FINAL PLENARY STATEMENT, ADRIAENSSEN THOUGHT THE ALLIES WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE A HARD POSITION AFTER THE RECESS, SINCE BY HAVING FULLY DEVELOPED ALLIED ASSURANCES, THE BALL

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

WOULD THEN CLEARLY BE IN THE EASTERN COURT.

17. US REP NOTED THAT THE ALLIES HAD CONFIRMED
PREVIOUS INFORMAL ASSURANCES IN PLENARY SESSIONS,
THOUGH USUALLY AFTER TWO OR THREE WEEK DELAYS,
IN ORDER FIRST TO SEEK OUT INFORMALLY EASTERN
REACTIONS. BUT THE FINAL PLENARY OF THE CURRENT ROUND

IS LESS THAN ONE WEEK AWAY. REGARDING ARGUMENTS
THAT A FORMAL OFFER WOULD BE UNRETRACTABLE, US
REP POINTED OUT THAT THE "ALL" OFFER WAS HIGHLY
CONDITIONAL AND COULD BE RETRACTED IF THE EAST DID
NOT MEET ALLIED CONDITIONS. THE MAJOR AHG GOAL SHOULD
BE TO GET MAXIMUM VALUE FROM THE OFFER. THEREFORE,
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AS A COMPROMISE, US REP SUGGESTED THAT INSTEAD OF USING THE LANGUAGE OF THE "ALL" OFFER AS PRESENTED IN THE JULY 10 INFORMAL, THE JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT COULD SIMPLY REFER TO THE FACT THAT WEST HAD MADE A FINAL IMPORTANT STEP WHICH CLOSES THE ALLIED PRESENTATION ON THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET.

18. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE AHG DECIDED TO DEFER UNTIL AFTER THE JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION, A FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER TO INCLUDE THE "ALL" PARTICIPANTS" OFFER IN THE JULY 17 PLENARY STATEMENT. UK REP ADVISED GROUP THAT REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF JULY 15 INFORMAL, HIS VIEWS ON THIS MATTER WOULD NOT CHANGE SINCE HIS OBJECTIONS WERE BASED ON PRINCIPLE. AHG ALSO DECIDED TO DEFER DISCUSSION OF INCLUSION OF THE GROUND FORCE OFFER UNTIL AFTER CONSIDERATION OF TALKING POINTS FOR JULY 15 INFORMAL SESSION. THE REMAINDER OF THE PLENARY OUTLINE THEN WAS APPROVED AND REMANDED TO THE DRAFTING GROUP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE FULL TEXT.

JULY 11 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

20. FRG REP (BEHREND) NOTED THE POSSIBLE INFERENCE IN GDR REP OESER'S JULY 11 PLENARY STATEMENT (SEPTTEL) THAT DISPOSITION OF EQUIPMENT OF REDUCED INDIGENOUS FORCES WITHIN THE AREA COULD BE DETERMINED BY THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS AND OESER'S POINT ON RESERVES. COMMENT: FRG DEPREP (HOFMANN) TOLD US DELOFF JULY 9 THAT BONN IS CONCERNED THAT ALLIED EMPHASIS WITH THE EAST ON THE DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN US/SOVIET WITHDRAWALS AND EUROPEAN (I.E. FRG) REDUCTIONS MIGHT PREJUDICE THE WESTERN ABILITY IN PHASE TWO TO ARGUE AGAINST THE DISBANDMENT (AS OPPOSED TO CADRE-ING) OF GERMAN AND OTHER WEST EUROPEAN FORCES. HOFMANN SAID THE FRG WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE ALLIED WITHDRAWAL "REDUCTION DISTINCTION COULD LEND WEIGHT TO POSSIBLE EASTERN DEMANDS FOR DESTRUCTION OF THE EQUIPEMTN OF INDIGENOUS FORCES IN THE AREA. END COMMENT. FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE GDR PLENARY STATMENT WILL BE RESUMED AT THE
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NEXT AHG MEETING, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 12.

AHG SCHEDULE

21. GROUP THEN REVIEWED ITS SCHEDULE IN LIGHT OF THE AGREEMENT TO HOLD THE FINAL INFORMAL MEETING ON JULY 15 AND PLENARY MEETING ON JULY 17. AHG DECIDED THAT THE FINAL WESTERN PRESS CONFERENCE, CONDUCTED BY THE NETHERLANDS REP QUARLES, WILL BE HELD AT 1430 HOURS ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, FOLLOWING THE PLENARY. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE FINAL EASTERN PRESS CONFERENCE, CONDUCTED BY POLISH REP STRULAK, WOULD BE HELD EARLIER THE SAME DAY. RESOR

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